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Section that especially challenges the admiration of the modern historian is their thoroughness and comprehensive arrangement. On the other hand, chapter and verse, though often mentioned, are not invariably quoted, the reader being asked to take the accuracy of the reference for granted. Possibly this is inevitable in a series of volumes that aim to be at once authoritative and readable. The mass of detail is extraordinary, but the dryness of a large portion of the data is relieved by spirited descriptions of such events as the actions against submarines, and the sinking of the *Lusitania*.

Mr. Hurd incorporates in his first volume a fairly comprehensive history of the merchant marine of Britain from Saxon times, no fewer than 136 pages being given to the pre-war period. In the course of his discussion of the losses of the British marine during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, he does not shrink from breaking a lance with Admiral Mahan, if in a minor field of controversy, and in many ways shows himself a master not only of detail but of the historical viewpoint. In the matter of accuracy, it is an extremely difficult matter to check up a volume of this kind, with its thousands of references. Some mistakes are doubtless inevitable, but there are, here and there, evidences of a carelessness that seems foreign to such a work. For example, in referring to the late Mr. John D. Long's *The New American Navy*, the author is called "former secretary of the Navy Department, U. S. N.", and his name is given as "the Hon. James Long".

The volume is provided with three excellent maps, a comprehensive index, and a dozen full-page illustrations in half-tone. On the whole, it is a very worthy companion of the monumental contributions to naval history by Sir Julian Corbett and Mr. Fayle.

EDWARD BRECK.

La Renaissance de l'Hellénisme. Par ÉDOUARD DRIAULT. Préface de M. POLITIS, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Grèce. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1920. Pp. vi, 242. 6 fr.)

THIS book contains sixteen lectures given at Athens early in 1920, upon invitation of Messrs. Venizelos and Politis, together with a discourse pronounced at Versailles after the author's return. Its interest does not lie in newly discovered material, but in its revelation of the point of view, in days *post bellum et post victoriam*, of a Frenchman, well informed and accustomed to large historical generalizations, when tracing summarily the history of Hellenism and estimating the place and rôle of modern Greece.

To M. Driault, Greece and France are closely related, as mother and daughter (p. 241). They are civilized (p. 39), and the other nations are barbarous (p. 237), especially Germany, her allies, and Russia (pp. 98, 142, 179, 194, etc.), but by implication, also England and America (p. 89). The recent war is a triumph of the Mediter-

anean civilization; "light does not come from the north" (p. 70). M. Driault said in his *La Question d'Orient* that Germany had no place in the Mediterranean. Now he says the same of England; France, not England, should have Egypt—apparently the attempts of Louis IX. and Napoleon I. to conquer the country are regarded as having helped to found a French title (p. 139). He says a good word here and there for Italy (which required some courage in Athens in 1920), yet he considers that Italy "betrayed the Mediterranean civilization" by joining the Triple Alliance (p. 150). Austria he would like to see replaced by a confederation of free nations, "a whole crown of French friendships" (p. 221).

As regards Greece, he is distinctly in favor of the "Great Idea", which he discreetly defines as the purpose that "all the lands that are Greek should be Greek" (p. 113). He does not discuss what makes a land Greek, whether language, religion, former occupation by a Greek majority, or former rule from Byzantine Constantinople. He distinctly says, however, that Cyprus (p. 146), Rhodes (p. 184), the Ionian coast (p. 24), and Constantinople (pp. 47, 50, 52, 98, 224) should be Greek, the first two because the majority is Greek, the others because they were once Greek. M. Politis in his preface sets forth the idea of a Greece, civilizing and educating her neighbors, and standing sentinel for the West against the German "danger", Russian imperialism, and Oriental barbarism (p. iv). This metaphysical abstraction is encouraged by M. Driault, who must have rejoiced his audiences greatly by promising them Constantinople, the "protection" of the Turks and Armenians (p. 161), the reopening of the great trade-routes, and a new age of Pericles (p. 225).

The relations of France and Greece he finds it sometimes a little difficult to describe in accordance with the theory of kinship and co-operation. He tries to work around the fact that since 1535 France has usually supported and sometimes tried to strengthen Turkey (pp. 56, 127), by saying that, when unable to destroy the Moslem power, it was best to be friends with it, so as to protect and emancipate its Christian subjects (p. 120). Here he overlooks the fact that the interest of France was regularly confined to Roman Catholic Christian subjects of Turkey. While erecting into an affirmation the suspicion that the German Metternich suggested to Mahmud II. that he call upon the Egyptians to put down the Greeks (p. 109), he omits to state that the army which Ibrahim Pasha brought to the Peloponnesus had been trained and was accompanied by French officers. Of interest is his laying blame for the destruction of the Parthenon on Germany—"always against you" (p. 163)—on the ground that the Venetian admiral used German guns and gunners (pp. 101, 232). He passes very hastily over the equivocal part played by Greece during the Great War, but regrets that much French sentiment was against Greece because of the behavior of King Constantine (p. 18—this was before Constantine's recall

to the Greek throne). He recommends that Greece prefer French policy to that of the English, who consider sentiment a weakness, and play a close and able game (p. 223).

M. Driault still believes that the capture of Constantinople in 1453 was a principal factor in the Italian Renaissance (p. 103), and that the Turks closed the roads to Asia, and brought about the great discoveries (p. 56). He crowds the facts somewhat in saying that during the Fanariot period the Turkish administration was "almost absolutely in the hands of the Greeks" (p. 102). The claim is interesting that whereas Napoleon I. "liberated" Poland and Italy, he would have liberated Serbia and Greece also except for "circumstances" (p. 88). Peculiarly French is the contrast of Napoleon's treatment of Mme. Walewska with William II.'s treatment of Miss Cavell (p. 91). Lack of knowledge is shown in jeering at the Bulgarian claim to Macedonia on nationalistic grounds (pp. 146, 192). Few still hold the narrow view that the Great War had "all its origins in the worldwide and especially the Near Eastern ambitions of William II." (p. 167).

ALBERT HOWE LYBYER.

Modern China: a Political Study. By SIH-GUNG CHENG, M.A., B.Sc., Fellow of the Royal Economic Society. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1919. Pp. vii, 380. \$3.75.)

To present in a single small volume a suggestive account of the origin and present problems of the new Republic of China is a difficult task; but Dr. Cheng has accomplished it with a high degree of success. The earlier pages, which deal chiefly with the Chinese constitution, are of very great interest, as they show us a keen Oriental mind, thoroughly informed as regards the history of cabinet government, seeking to fit that delicate machinery to conditions equally familiar to him, but little understood by the average Western student of history and politics.

In all of his suggestions Dr. Cheng wisely insists that the Chinese reformers and modernizers should build upon Chinese foundations in so far as that is possible. His aim is a successful Chinese republic, not an imitation of Western republics. He believes that the federation of the Chinese provinces, and the centralization of military control offer the most promising way out of the chaos which has resulted under "the present day nominal centralization"; and he makes a convincing argument in favor of his thesis.

The disturbing factor of the present day—the military governors of the provinces—as Dr. Cheng points out, date only from the revolution of 1911, which is still in progress. These "Tuchuns (military governors), with the armed force at their command" he says, "have always overwhelmed their civil colleagues. . . . If China is to be saved from the danger of internal disruption . . . she must centralize the administration of her army." It is almost needless to add that every